

# Rapport Growing as Leaders Face German Issue

### By BILL KELLER

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WASHINGTON, June 2 — President Bush and President Mikhail S. Gorbachev withdrew to the relative informality of Camp David, Md., today to test whether their growing rapport can narrow differences on unresolved problems, including the future of Germany.

American officials said today that the first surprise of the summit meeting, President Bush's agreement on Friday to sign a trade agreement while the fate of Lithuania is unresolved, had been a victory for personal diplomacy that had added a new element of trust to the working relationship.

### Far From a Breakthrough

At Camp David, the Presidential retreat 50 miles northwest of the capital, the two leaders were scheduled to discuss regional disputes and Mr. Gorbachev's economic troubles, two topics postponed in three days of talks focused on strategic arms, trade and European security. But officials both sides predicted that the men would take the opportunity to resume a discussion on the future of Europe after German reunification.

American and Soviet officials said the two sides remained far from a breakthrough on the central issue of whether a united Germany will be integrated into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, but Mr. Gorbachev was expected to press anew Soviet proposals aimed at making that prospect less threatening to Moscow.

## Rapport Seems to Grow

The Presidents flew by helicopter from the White House lawn this morning amid signs that their personal rapport had been deepened this week as they moved from longstanding issues between the two countries to profound questions of what comes after the cold war.

"The most important thing we're going to discuss today is to go over the planet and its hot spots, in other words, to discuss regional issues," Mr. Gorbachev told reporters as the two men arrived at Camp David. "And of course we will pursue our general discussions in order to understand each other better."

American officials today recounted how Mr. Bush tried to cement the kind of personal trust he prizes in his relations with world leaders by responding to Mr. Gorbachev's appeal for a trade pact.

Mr. Bush had said before the summit meeting that the Kremlin's harsh resistance to Lithuania's drive for independence could impede a trade agreement, and members of Congress warned today that Congressional approval of the accord would hinge on an end to Moscow's economic crackdown on Lithuania. [Page 10.]

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In what Soviet and American officials said was an example of the commercial contacts that would prosper under the trade accord, the Chevron Corporation signed an agreement today that could open the way for a major expansion of its activities in the Soviet Union. [Page 13.]

Discussing the two leaders' meetings this week, an American official said that Mr. Gorbachev brought up the

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# Relaxing, Bush and Gorbachev Go to Camp David to Build Trust

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issue of the trade accord in each of his encounters with Mr. Bush.

"He made it a personal thing be-tween him and the President," the official said. "Chemistry played a big role in it, because Bush is very high on personal diplomacy."

At the same time, the official said, the Soviet side began dragging its heels on signing a new long-term grain agreement greatly desired by Amer-ican farmers, implicitly signaling that the grain and trade deals were linked.

They wanted to show they were bargaining hard too, that they were not groyeling too much," the American official asserted.

The official said that after sounding out Mr. Gorbachev personally on his willingness to seek a peaceful resolution of the Lithuanian issue, and after having aides check for possible reper-cussions on Capitol Hill, Mr. Bush agreed to sign the treaty. It is to be sent to Congress as soon as the Soviet Parliament approves a new emigration law, which is expected soon.

#### **Pressure From Conservatives**

"Gorbachev had a track record with us, and we calculated that he was going to need something to take back with him from Washington," the American official said. "That was in our interests too, because we need his acquiescence, at the very least, in Europe and his help on arms control and other issues.

The Administration version of this exchange may have been aimed at preempting criticism from American conservatives, who have already begun to complain that Mr. Bush failed to extract concessions from the Soviet leader on Lithuania.

Soviet journalists said Mr. Gorba-chev could display the trade agreement at home as a small vote of confidence by the Bush Administration in the Soviet leadership and its prospects for reviving the economy.

#### 'Most Fruitful Summit'

Yevgeny M. Primakov, a close adviser to Mr. Gorbachev, told reporters in Washington that the rustic setting of Camp David was conducive to reflection on broader philosophical questions "you cannot talk very well about in tuxedoes.

"I believe that this is the most fruitful summit in the history of our relations," Mr. Primakov added, explaining that the emergence of a more cooperative approach on issues like the future of Europe had given the super-power relationship "a vertical dimen-

American officials said that while the two leaders would review the world's areas of conflict, beginning with Afghanistan, preliminary meet-ings of lower-level officials had not brought the two sides close to any major breakthrough.

#### **Playing Down Prospects**

The American side has taken pains to play down the prospect of resolving differences on Germany, especially after upbeat and apparently offhanded tions."

comments by the two leaders earlier this week ignited a brushfire of expectations.

A senior American official said that after reviewing the issue at length earlier in the week the opposing positions seemed clear and not subject to change.

"They spoke about it for two and a half hours," the official said. "They may return to it, but I think we took it as far as we can take it on this trip.

The Soviets contend that a united Germany fully integrated into the NATO military command would be perceived at home as tilting the balance decisively against Soviet security.

As Germany reunifies, Moscow wants the rival military blocs gradually supplanted by a more collective European security structure that would protect existing boundaries, limit the size of the German army, and prevent Germany from becoming a nuclear power.

#### 'Far From Being Settled'

The United States contends that Germany's membership in NATO is virtually inevitable, and the only issue is how to make that fact politically, economically and militarily palatable for the Soviets.

Mr. Primakov said the issue of Ger-

# A U.S. official speaks of the value of personal chemistry.

many's membership in NATO is "far from being settled," but he said the United States "understands much bet-ter than before" the Soviet desire for international structures to diminish the danger of military confrontation.

When a reporter asked what leverage Moscow had to prevent Germany from reuniting and joining NATO, Mr. Primakov said: "I don't think for that we would have to send tank divisions to the territory of Germany.

'As for other questions, the Soviet Union, if its security interests are not taken into account, then will have to consider on a unilateral basis a whole series of measures that will enable it to insure its own security," he said, without elaborating.

Mr. Gorbachev was also scheduled to recount for the President Bush today his plans to move to market-oriented economy.

Mr. Gorbachev has defended the plan, including the price increases, while trying to remain just aloof enough from the quarreling over particulars to avoid becoming the personal target of consumer anger.

Asked today if the Soviet leader still supported the plan, Mr. Primakov said: "Of course, yes, without a doubt. But the plan needs certain correc-